

APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR PHOTOLITHOGRAPHIC PROCESSING

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Photolithographic processing apparatus and methods are disclosed. In one embodiment, a method of photolithographically patterning a surface of a substrate includes forming a photoreactive layer on the surface of the substrate, transmitting light through a first patterning portion of a first photolithographic mask to expose a first patterned portion of the photoreactive layer, transmitting light through a second patterning portion of a second photolithographic mask to expose a second patterned portion of the photoreactive layer. In an alternate embodiment, transmitting light through the first patterning portion of the first photolithographic mask is performed simultaneously with transmitting light through the second patterning portion of the second photolithographic mask. In a further embodiment, the light being transmitted through the second patterning portion of a second photolithographic mask has already been transmitted through a first transparent portion of the first photolithographic mask.